

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 42903-40700

Title: 24TH MEU (SOC) OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 28 Apr 1993

Originator: 24 MEU(SOC) S-2

POC: CAPT BRENSTUHL Commercial: (919)451-3177 DSN: 4843177

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Forward deploying MEU collection assets and the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center (SARC) is mission critical when conducting sustained operations ashore.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

During operations ashore in the Kismayo HRS, the MEU forward deployed Radio Battalion, Counterintelligence, Interrogator Translators, Force Reconnaissance and analytical assets ashore. At least 95% of the information collected was Humint related. The need to collate, evaluate and disseminate the information required the establishment of a SARC. Although the majority of the collection assets remained in one central location, the Force Reconnaissance detachment remained co-located with the BLT. Had the environment been more conducive to the utilization of the Force Reconnaissance assets in the collection of information, this separation may have caused problems in analysis and timely dissemination of information.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

a. When forward deploying the SARC, ensure that collection asset representation is co-located.

b. Ensure that the SARC is forward deployed early to facilitate collection management tasking, fusion, analysis and dissemination of information.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Forward deploy the SARC early with appropriate collection management and asset representation to ensure timely dissemination of information.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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Lesson ID: 42905-36600

Title: 24TH MEU (SOC) OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 29 Apr 1993

Originator: 24 MEU(SOC) S-2

POC: CAPT BRENSTUHL Commercial: (919)451-3177 DSN: 4843177

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

During sustained operations ashore in the Kismayo HRS, the MEU experienced a number of information gaps which could have been best satisfied by assets either on Continental United States (CONUS) standby or not on the MEU's Table of Organization (T/O).

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The only asset ashore that could have been considered a real-time target information platform was Radio Battalion. However, had the environment been conducive to SIGINT operations, information collected would still have to be verified by multiple sources. A number of information requirements centered on determining ingress and egress routes used by hostile forces operating in the area. The ability to monitor and rapidly respond to numerous Named Areas of Interest (NAI) could have been best satisfied by using sensors (SCAMP) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). Conditions for employment of both of these assets were ideal in that visibility was unrestricted and line of sight was excellent. Unfortunately, neither of these assets was available and collection efforts were hampered.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

UAV and SCAMP capabilities could have significantly enhanced the collection efforts in Operation Restore Hope.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

a. SCAMP and UAV detachments should be CONUS standby detachments for forward deployed MEU's.

b. In the early planning stages of an operation, identify the CONUS standby detachments that may be required for mission

accomplishment and arrange for their arrival and employment.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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